

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00431 301926Z

53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 092529

P 301600Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1408

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

COMCARIBSEAFRON SAN JUAN PR UNN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS CURACAO 431

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PINT, ELAB, NA

SUBJECT : POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

FOR BURKE - ARA/LA/CAR

1. THIS WEEK, PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON AUGUST 3,
THE POLITICAL POT IN CURACAO HAS COME TO A FURIOUS BOIL.
THE LABOR UNIONS, PRODDED BY RADICALS, HAVE MADE A COLLECTIVE
DEMAND ON THE GOVERNMENT ON THE INFLATION ISSUE. THEY DEMAND
A RETAIL PRICE ROLL-BACK TO JULY 13, 1973. THE GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAS ROLLED BACK PRICES TO JULY 23, STATES THAT IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THIS DEMAND BECAUSE OF SKYROCKETING PRICES
IN THE 10-DAY PERIOD INTERVENING BETWEEN JULY 13 AND 23.
THERE IS NOW A THREAT OF A GENERAL STRIKE ON THE DAY BEFORE
THE ELECTION AND SOME UNIONS ARE REQUESTING THEIR MEMBERS
BOYCOTT THE ELECTION. THE RADICALS APPARENTLY HOPE BY USING
THIS TACTIC TO SWAY THAT RADICAL PORTION OF THE LABOR VOTE
WHICH WOULD TURN UP AT THE POLLS TO THE SMALLER PARTIES OF THE
RADICALS' FAVOR.

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WM IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE RADICALS WILL BE
EFFECTIVE IN THEIR ENDEAVOR TO SWING THE LABOR UNIONS AND
CRACK THE MAJORITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE NATIONAL
PARTY. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION WHICH
SEEMS TO BE EXACTLY WHAT THE RADICALS WANT.

3. THERE IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE HEAVY POLITICAL INFIGHTING
AMONG POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH COULD
RESULT IN WEAKENING THAT PARTY'S STRENGTH. THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY, DOMINANT ON CURACAO FOR SO LONG, REPRESENTS MUCH OF
THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY.

4. SO FAR THE SINT MAARTEN, ARUBA AND BONAIRE POLITICAL
SCENES APPEAR TO BE RELATIVELY QUIET.

5. THE THREATENED GENERAL STRIKE ON CURACAO HAS CREATED AN
ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION AND APPREHENSION ON THE ISLAND WHICH
COULD POSSIBLY KEEP THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY FROM THE POLLS
AND CAUSE A SWING TO THE LEFT. LOFTON

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